

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OIC-02 HEW-04 LAB-04

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05

AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 DIWY-01 CU-02 FRB-03 USIA-06

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 /115 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0705

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, OCON, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: ILO WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE: JAPANESE EVALUATION

REF: STATE 168519

SUMMARY: GOJ RELIEVED THAT WEC DID NOT LEAD TO ANOTHER EAST-WEST OR NORTH-SOUTH CONFRONTATION AND PLEASED THAT COOPERATION AMONG INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AVOIDED U.S. ISOLATION. GOJ ALREADY THINKING ABOUT NEXT FEBRUARY'S GOVERNING BODY MEETING, WHEN ILO 1978-79 BUDGET MUST BE APPROVED AND, SINCE BUDGET WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN ILO, GOJ HOPES USG WILL MAKE CLEAR DECISION BEFORE THEN. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTRY OF LABOR DEPUTY VICE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IWASAKI, WHO ATTENDED BOTH ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE
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(ILC) AND WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE (WEC), TOLD LABATT

JULY 9 THAT JAPANESE BOTH RELIEVED AND PLEASED BY
OUTCOME OF WEC.

2. GOJ RELIEVED BECAUSE, WHILE IT EXPECTED NOTHING
POSITIVE OR SUBSTANTIVE TO EMERGE FROM WEC, IT FEARED
POLITICAL UPROAR AT CONFERENCE WOULD HARDEN U.S.
RESOLVE TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO. JAPANESE ASSUME THAT
SINCE WEC WAS RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL, POSSIBILITY OF
U.S. WITHDRAWAL HAS CERTAINLY NOT INCREASED, AND MAY
EVEN HAVE DECREASED.

3. ACCORDING TO IWASAKI, GOJ PLEASE BY DEGREE TO
WHICH WESTERN GROUP COOPERATED DURING WEC, THEREBY
ELIMINATING POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. WOULD BE ISOLATED.
IWASAKI ATTRIBUTED UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF COLLABORATION TO
TWO FACTORS. FIRST, EUROPEANS AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED
DEMOCRACIES NOW TAKING ILO AND RELATED CONFERENCES
SERIOUSLY IN VIEW OF U.S. THREAT TO WITHDRAW AND ARE
THEREBY PROVIDING THEIR DELEGATES TO SUCH CONFERENCES
WITH INSTRUCTIONS WHICH PREVENT UNHELPFUL AND UNCOORDINATED
INITIATIVES (E.G. PROPOSALS SUDDENLY OFFERED IN PAST
BY ITALY'S AGO). SECONDLY, MAINLY AT URGING OF U.S.
DELEGATION, WESTERNERS CAUCUSED FREQUENTLY DURING
CONFERENCE AND WERE ABLE TO CLOSELY COORDINATE THEIR
SPEECHES AND OTHER TACTICAL MOVES. IN THIS CONNECTION,
IWASAKI PARTICULARLY GREATFUL TO HELP EXTENDED JAPANESE
DELEGATION AND HIM IN PARTICULAR BY GENEVA LABATT
PFEIFFER.

4. IWASAKI STRUCK BY CONTRAST BETWEEN APPARENTLY MONO-
LITHIC POSITION OF GROUP OF 77 AT SUCH CONFERENCES AS
UNCTAD AND OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES WITHIN GROUP DISPLAYED
AT WEC. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS CONTRAST TO TRIPARTITE
COMPOSITION OF ILO, SINCE BOTH UNION AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES FROM
LDCS ACTED AS "BUFFER" ON MORE EXTREME GOVERNMENT
POSITIONS. IWASAKI ALSO CITED EXTRAORDINARY INFLUENCE
THAT PERSONALITIES OF INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES CAN EXERT ON
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND, IN THIS CONNECTION,
CITED PLEASING PERSONALITY AND ADAPT PERFORMANCE OF
INDONESIAN MINISTER OF LABOR AS PLAYING CRUCIAL ROLE IN
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SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF WEC.

5. LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD, IWASAKI SAW NEXT MAJOR
PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO ILO EMERGING AT NEXT FEBRUARY
1977 MEETING OF GOVERNING BODY. AT THAT TIME, DECISION
MUST BE MADE ON ILO BUDGET FOR '78-79 AND SUCH DECISION
WILL DEPEND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT
CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE. IWASAKI HOPED THAT USG

WOULD CONTINUE ITS CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER
WESTERN COUNTRIES BEFORE NEXT WINTER'S GB MEETING AND
HINTED THAT GOJ WOULD WELCOME CLEAR READING FROM U.S.
BY EARLY FEBRUARY AT LEAST AS TO WHETHER IT INTENDS TO
REMAIN IN ILO.
HODGSON

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